

CENSUS DEBATE IS NOTHING NEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the folks at the Census Bureau must be getting a pretty thick skin. This is certainly not the first time they have been criticized. Guess who lodged the first complaint about an undercount? George Washington. He complained to Thomas Jefferson, who was the Marti Ritchie of the 1790s, that the numbers were too low. Washington knew that even back in 1790 when there were only about 3.9 million people living in the colonies, that there was no way to accurately count each American by simply going door to door.

The Census has been surrounded by controversy ever since. In 1920, the party in power was so dismayed by the Census numbers, they simply dismissed them. For the first time, the Census showed that urban areas held a greater proportion of the population than did rural areas. The shift was so devastating to the majority, that Congress just failed to act, claiming that these numbers could not possibly be right. The 1930 Census affirmed the shift and Congress was forced to act.

In 1940, the impact of the undercount simply could not be denied. The War Department was depending on the Census to determine the number of young men eligible to serve. Turns out there were many more men ready to defend their country than the count had indicated. Specifically, young black men were greatly underestimated.

Over 5 percent of the population was left out of the 1940 Census. As a result, the Census Bureau began a program to measure and understand the undercount. The undercount in the Census declined steadily across the decades until 1980 when the Census counted 98.8 percent of the population, an undercount of 1.2 percent.

However, while the total undercount grew smaller across time, the difference between black and nonblack undercounts did not change much. In fact, between 1940 and 1970, the difference actually increased slightly. In 1990, things really got bad. The net undercount went from 1.2 percent in 1980, to 1.6 percent, and the difference between black and nonblack was the highest ever measured.

The real story was even worse. The General Accounting Office estimated that there were over 26 million errors in the 1990 Census. About 10 million people were missed, 6 million people were counted twice and 10 million were counted in the wrong place. That is an error rate of over 10 percent.

We might ask why the Census Bureau has not done something about that problem. Well, the answer is that they have tried. But the efforts of its statisticians have been blocked by politicians trying to preserve their domain. The Census Bureau was under pressure to correct the errors in the 1980 Census,

but at that time the technology for measuring and correcting those errors was not well enough developed to do the job. However, following the 1980 Census, the Census Bureau developed a research program to be ready to correct the 1990 Census.

The research went forward, but when time came to put the system in place to correct the 1990 Census, the Under Secretary for Economic Statistics at the Department of Commerce, an appointee of President Reagan, blocked implementation.

New York City, and several others, sued the Secretary to force the Secretary to implement the measures necessary to correct the 1990 Census, but before the case could be heard by the courts, the Commerce Department settled. The settlement called for a scaled down survey to measure the errors and an evaluation panel of eight experts, four appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, four appointed by the plaintiff.

In the end, they split 4-4. The four experts selected by the Secretary of Commerce recommended against correcting the Census. The four experts selected by the plaintiffs recommended in favor of using the survey to correct the Census. The experts at the Census Bureau voted 7 to 2 in favor of the correction and the director of the Census Bureau recommended to the Secretary that the Census counts be corrected.

The Secretary, however, refused to follow that advice and in the end the Supreme Court upheld his power to do so.

Dr. Barbara Bryant, President Bush's Director of the Census Bureau in 1990, set in place a research program to develop plans for the 2000 census that were above reproach. She called on the National Academy of Science for help, as well as talented statisticians and demographers throughout the country.

That research program led to the design for the census that we are fighting over today: A design to correct the 26 million errors. A design to reduce the cost of the census. A design that is fundamentally more fair and honest. That is the design that our colleagues want to tear down. If they succeed, they will take the whole census down with them.

Our colleagues who oppose correcting the mistakes made in 1990 have no credible alternative. Their only response to fixing the problem is to throw more money at it. We will give the census a blank check, they cry. Friends, money will not solve this problem.

Counting noses didn't work for Thomas Jefferson when there were less than 4 million persons in the United States and few of those were west of the Allegheny Mountains. Counting noses certainly will not work when there are over 260 million people spread across the 48 contiguous states, Alaska, Hawaii and the territories.

Every expert and scientific panel that has studied this problem has agreed with the Census Bureau. To fix the 10 percent error in the 1990 census you have to go beyond traditional counting techniques.

The opponents of an accurate census are quick to claim the plan for the 2000 census is unconstitutional, but none of the constitutional

scholars they claim to support their views has yet to put pen to paper. There has yet to be published a serious scholarly article that makes their case.

The opponents of an accurate census are quick to scream that the plan for the 2000 census is against the will of Congress.

However, Congress ceded its authority to design and run the census to the Secretary of Commerce. The opponents of an accurate census know they cannot pass a veto proof bill that rescinds that authority.

The plans for the 2000 census are sound. However, the opponents of an accurate census are doing everything in their power to make sure those plans fail.

If the next census exceeds the error rate of the last one, it will not be the fault of the employees at the Census Bureau.

If hundreds of Americans are left out of the democratic process because of flaws in the census, it will not be the fault of the Clinton Administration.

If the next census is a failure it will be the fault of those here in Congress who are doing everything they can to block a fair and accurate count.

ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NOT CERTIFY MEXICO AS COMPLIANT WITH DRUG LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today I understand that the administration is about to certify Mexico as compliant with the United States law that requires an assessment of every country that is making an effort to eradicate or eliminate drug trafficking or drug production.

It is rather sad that the administration would certify Mexico to a law that was designed to give benefits for trade, foreign assistance, financial assistance and military assistance to a country that is making progress in these areas, and choose to do so with Mexico because I cannot think of any offender worse than Mexico. In fact, in the drug war, Mexico is a disaster.

The major source of almost all hard narcotics coming into the United States across our borders is Mexico. In fact, the major source of cocaine, of heroin, of methamphetamines and marijuana coming into the United States, the vast quantities that are coming into our country and destroying our cities, our communities, our children, are coming in, in fact, from Mexico. And today this administration, I understand, is going to certify Mexico as compliant.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues that Mexico is involved in narcotics up to its eyeballs, from the President's office down to the policeman on the beat. We know this. We have had hearings in our Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice that I serve on that confirm Mexico's lack and failure to cooperate in the war on drugs.

Mr. Speaker, they failed to sign a maritime agreement; they failed to cooperate in the extradition of the hard criminal drug traffickers; they failed to bring down even one major trafficking ring in Mexico; they failed to curb corruption; and they have failed to aid our DEA agents when they put their lives at risk in that country to help stop the war on drugs.

Mr. Speaker, neighbors do not let neighbors have their young killed in the streets. I submit that Mexico is a neighbor and it has failed to take action and should not be certified by this administration now or until, in fact, it does get its act together and takes positive steps to curtail the production and the transit of drugs from that country to our country.

All we have to do is look at the youth death and the death and crime in our country as a result of the drugs. Again, the major source of these drugs is Mexico. They are coming into our country. Two million Americans behind bars are there because of a drug-related offense and most of those drugs are coming in from Mexico.

We have a skyrocketing rate of drug abuse and drug deaths among our youth, hitting our youth and our streets and our schools and our communities with cocaine deaths.

In my area of central Florida, record heroin deaths and heroin is coming in and it will soon be as cheap as cocaine or any other drug in incredible quantities from Mexico.

So we cannot certify a Nation that, indeed, is not cooperating. We cannot certify a Nation that is raining death and terror on our young people in the streets and neighborhood at a tremendous cost to our young people, a tremendous cost to our communities. The jails that are filled in this country and our citizens cannot even go to sleep at night because of the related crime and the related violence of drugs and narcotics.

So they are taking a step today and it is the wrong step. They have taken the wrong step in the past when they had a Surgeon General, Joycelyn Elders, who established the policy of "Just Say Maybe" to drugs; when we had the President tell our young people, "If I had it to do all over again, I would inhale."

Today, another fatal step in the lack of war on drugs by this administration and this President who are about to certify this country, which is the major source of violence, crime, and drugs in our Nation. We can stop it. We must stop it. We must decertify Mexico.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MADAME C.J. WALKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, since the inception of the Black History celebration, an idea that was inspired by Dr. Carver G. Woodson, the world has become acquainted with the myriad of contributions of African-American achievement.

I rise today to pay tribute to a woman, Madame C.J. Walker, who contributed to black history and to the larger picture of American history, who resided in Indiana's 10th Congressional District. The Walker Building in my district is on the Register of Historic Places. For these reasons the Postal Service honored Madame C.J. Walker last month with a commemorative stamp in the 10th District of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Madame Walker was born Sara Breedlove. She was America's first woman self-made millionaire. Overcoming a life of poverty, this orphaned daughter of slaves rose from washwoman to entrepreneur. In 1905, she developed a conditioning treatment for hair. Her pioneering hair care methods and products transformed the appearance and self-image of African-American women.

As a business woman, Madame Walker was the master of door-to-door sales through the demonstration of her products in homes, in churches, and club meetings. As an innovative chemist, she experimented with herbs, ointments and chemicals and she developed an effective product that revolutionized black hair care.

□ 1200

By 1910, when Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company was created in Indianapolis, Walker had perfected the direct marketing technique used today by companies such as Mary Kay. At the height of Madame Walker's success, the company had 3,000 workers, including sales agents, factory workers, public relations persons, marketing specialists and chemists.

As a leader and advocate for women, most of her employees were women. The company provided an alternative to the traditional domestic service jobs that had been reserved for black women, truly a visionary action before women had won the right to vote even. Furthermore, in Madame Walker's will was a provision that the company she founded always be headed by women.

As a philanthropist, Madame Walker did much to promote racial and women's equality. At home, she contributed to Flanner House in Indianapolis, Bethel AME, the Alpha Home and the Senate Avenue YMCA. On the national

level, she was an avid supporter of the NAACP, the Tuskegee Institute and the Mary McLeod Normal School. She encouraged her agents to support black philanthropic work by forming "Walker Clubs" and giving cash prizes to the clubs performing the largest amount of community charity work.

I am grateful and proud that Madame Walker left such a rich legacy for not only me and my constituents in Indianapolis but for all of America. Indeed, if there was ever a person who personified the notion of self-determination and self-help, Madame C.J. Walker was that person. At a time when society could have strictly defined Madame Walker, she was the author of her own destiny and a beacon of inspiration for African-Americans and to all Americans, and women in particular.

RONALD REAGAN RESPONSIBLE FOR A NEW FREEDOM IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. Lucas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks there has been a great deal of discussion in this body as to the legacy of our great former president, Ronald Reagan. I would like to add a short story which will serve only to enhance this well-deserved legacy.

Recently, one of my staffers was watching a television program with his 10-year-old son, David. The program's subject matter dealt with the role of the news media in various wars our Nation has been involved in down through the generations.

At one point in the program, David, who I know to always be an inquisitive lad, asked his dad what the Vietnam War was all about. And certainly that is a question that we all ask ourselves from time to time, I might add, but try explaining it to a 10-year-old.

While explaining our Nation's involvement in Vietnam to his son, my staffer referred to our country's efforts to stem the spread of Communism during that era. At the mention of the word Communism, David posed a simple yet profound question. "What's Communism, dad?"

Now, think about that, Mr. Speaker. Our generation is able to raise its children and grandchildren without the real and present fear of Communism and nuclear war with which we grew up.

My staffer appropriately responded to his son's question with a truth that he could thank Ronald Reagan for the fact that Communism is now such a failed relic of the past. And I agree with my staffer's assessment. Great strides have been made when a 10-year-old is able to live without the fear that haunted my childhood and yours.